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Letter dated 18 August 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cameroon to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward herewith the assessment of the work of the Security Council for the month of October 2002, during the presidency of Cameroon (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have it circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) M. **Chungong Ayafor**
Ambassador
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Annex to the letter dated 18 August 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cameroon to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: French]

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Cameroon (October 2002)

Introduction

Under the presidency of Ambassador Martin Belinga-Eboutou, Permanent Representative of Cameroon, the Security Council had a very heavy agenda in October 2002, not only because many mandates typically come up for renewal during this period of the Council's working year but also because of the prevailing international situation.

During the period under review, the Council thus considered many issues of major significance for the maintenance of international peace and security, in Europe, Asia, including the Middle East, Oceania and especially Africa.

In addition, it considered thematic issues, such as the fight against terrorism, women in armed conflict and controlling the proliferation of small arms.

For the first time, the Security Council held a public meeting on cooperation between the United Nations system and the Central African region in the maintenance of peace and security. The conflict in Côte d'Ivoire was also added to the Security Council's agenda on 31 October.

The Security Council devoted equal attention to all the situations posing a potential threat to international peace and security of which it is seized. Despite its topicality, the question of the disarmament of Iraq, while figuring prominently in the Council's deliberations during Cameroon's presidency, did not overshadow the other distressing conflict situations in Africa, the Middle East, Europe and other parts of the world.

Although most of the various consensus elements aimed at the peaceful disarmament of Iraq through the resumption of inspections were agreed and finalized during October 2002, the Council, in its prudent quest for legitimacy, wisely organized, at the request of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, a public debate on the situation in Iraq, thereby giving non-members of the Council an opportunity to express their views on this highly sensitive and much-debated issue.

During October, the Security Council adopted four resolutions and six presidential statements. It held 33 formal meetings, including two private meetings with troop-contributing countries and three closed private meetings at which it heard briefings by the President of the International Court of Justice, the President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the Prosecutor of the two Tribunals.

Members of the Council also met 14 times to hold informal consultations.

It should be mentioned that the Council's different caucuses held an almost unprecedented number of parallel meetings. The caucuses of the five permanent

members, the non-aligned members and the 10 elected members all served as forums for informal consultations, thereby undoubtedly facilitating subsequent decision-making on the delicate Iraq situation.

The President of the Security Council had pledged that his presidency would be characterized by systematic transparency and consultation, in order to facilitate consensus-building among the members of the Security Council.

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 15 October, the members of the Security Council held consultations on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, during which they heard a presentation by the Secretariat on developments there.

After the consultations and pending the agreed adoption of a presidential statement, the President of the Security Council delivered a statement to the press, in which the Council said that it was very concerned about the situation in the eastern part of the country and intended to adopt a presidential statement in the following few days identifying the main lines of action that it planned to advocate.

Further to the understanding reached in its consultations on 15 October, the Security Council adopted at a formal meeting on 18 October a statement by the President (S/PRST/2002/27), in which it, inter alia, expressed its strong concerns at the rising tensions in the east of the country, in particular in Uvira and in the Ituri region, where there had been an intensification of inter-ethnic violence. It also stressed the importance for the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) to increase its presence in the east of the country, in particular in the regions bordering Burundi and Rwanda, as soon as security conditions allowed. The Council reiterated its demand for the demilitarization of Kisangani, called on all the parties involved in the conflict to commit themselves to achieving a peaceful settlement and condemned any attempt to use military action to influence the peace process.

The Chairman of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mahmoud Kassem, presented the Panel's report (S/2002/1146) to the Security Council at a formal meeting on 24 October. Pursuant to the conclusions reached by the Council in its prior consultations, the President, with the consent of the Council, authorized only the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Léonard She Okitundu, to make a statement.

Reacting to the content of the report, in particular to the accusations made against members of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Minister recommended that the Council should impose penalties on the foreign aggressor Governments found guilty of pillaging and institute judicial proceedings against the other pillagers. Consideration of the issue was then postponed, as agreed by the members of the Council, to the next meeting, to be scheduled in consultations.

On 31 October, the Council held lengthy consultations on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Special Representative of the Secretary-

General, Amos Namanga Ngongi, briefed the members of the Council on the latest developments in the situation on the ground.

After the consultations, the President of the Security Council delivered a statement to the press on behalf of the Council, in which, inter alia, members of the Council expressed their grave concern regarding the situation in the eastern part of the country, particularly the Ituri region. They appealed to all local groups and to the States in the region, particularly Rwanda and Uganda, respectively to put their efforts into achieving a political settlement and to ensure the security of the civilian populations in the areas where they maintained forces. The members of the Council commended the initial results obtained with regard to disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration, welcomed the continuing withdrawal of foreign forces and, after expressing their support for MONUC, asked it to continue verifying the withdrawal until all forces had been withdrawn. They also reiterated their complete confidence in the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

Somalia

In the course of its consultations on 15 October, the Security Council, inter alia, discussed the wording of a press statement by the President of the Security Council, in which the members of the Council would send a strong message of encouragement and support to the protagonists of the Somalia national reconciliation process, meeting at Eldoret, Kenya.

In that statement, which was also sent to the Chief of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia to be read out at the opening of the Eldoret meeting, the members of the Security Council, inter alia, welcomed the launching at Eldoret, Kenya, of the national reconciliation process sponsored by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. They underlined their united support for that process and reaffirmed their commitment to a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the situation in Somalia. They also expressed their commitment to assist the parties in the implementation of decisions that might be adopted.

Angola

The Security Council held informal consultations on 18 October on the situation in Angola, in particular, on the Monitoring Mechanism established pursuant to resolution 1295 (2002), whose mandate as extended by paragraph 3 of resolution 1404 (2002) was to expire on 19 October. The Council had before it the report of the Monitoring Mechanism (S/2002/1119) and a draft resolution (S/2002/1168) submitted by Bulgaria, France, Ireland, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

After the consultations and in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the Council adopted unanimously at a formal meeting resolution 1439 (2002), in which it decided, essentially, to lift the travel ban imposed on senior UNITA officials and their immediate family members from 0001 Eastern Standard Time on 14 November 2002 (para. 8). It also decided to extend the mandate of the Monitoring Mechanism for a further period of two months, ending on 19 December 2002, subject to a review of the situation based on an additional report of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993).

Central African Republic and Chad

In consultations on 18 October, the Security Council for the first time considered the situation in the Central African Republic from the standpoint of the situation prevailing between that country and the Republic of Chad.

After the consultations, the Security Council adopted at a public meeting a statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2002/28) in which, inter alia, it expressed its full support for the decision by the States members of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community to deploy an International Observation Force of 300 to 350 troops from Cameroon, the Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Mali. It called upon Member States participating in that Force to work in close consultation with the Representative of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in the Central African Republic.

The members of the Council expressed their readiness to continue their efforts to help normalize the relations between the two countries in order to preserve peace and stability in Central Africa.

Cooperation between the United Nations system and the Central African region

On 22 October, the Security Council, presided over by Ambassador Martin Belinga-Eboutou, held a day-long public meeting on the item entitled "Strengthening cooperation between the United Nations system and the Central African region in the maintenance of peace and security". The Council had before it a background note distributed by the President (S/2002/1179) defining the focus and objectives of the debate.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo took part in the debate. In his absence from New York, the Secretary-General was represented by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tuliameni Kalomoh, who made a statement to the Council based on an information note prepared for the meeting by the Secretariat and distributed to the members of the Council. Other participants in the debate were: the Deputy Secretary-General of the Economic Community of Central African States; the President of the Economic and Social Council; for the World Bank, the Country Director for South-Central Africa and the Great Lakes Region; for the United Nations Development Programme, the Director of the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery; and the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations. They all made statements to the Council.

At the end of the debate, the President presented some preliminary conclusions, pending the negotiation and adoption of the draft presidential statement proposed in the background note.

In the statement of 31 October by the President of the Security Council on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations system and the Central African region in the maintenance of peace and security (S/PRST/2002/31), the Council concluded by referring to the possible dispatch to the Central African region of an inter-agency evaluation mission. The Council also invited the Secretary-General to brief it within six months on ways to implement a comprehensive,

integrated, resolute and concerted approach to the issues of peace, security and development in Central Africa.

Côte d'Ivoire

On 31 October, the Security Council, for the first time since the start of the crisis on 19 September, held consultations on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire. It heard a briefing by the Secretariat on the latest developments in the situation in that country.

After the consultations, the President of the Security Council delivered a statement to the press, in which the members of the Council strongly condemned the attempt to seize power by force of arms or to overthrow the legitimate, democratically elected Government of Côte d'Ivoire, and pledged the latter their full support. The members of the Council also called on all parties to resolve the crisis peacefully and to recognize that only through a political solution could that be achieved. They commended the initiatives undertaken by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to promote a peaceful resolution of the conflict, particularly through its Contact Group, to which they pledged their full support. Members of the Council called on the international community to provide the necessary assistance for the immediate deployment of the ECOWAS Monitoring Group interposition force.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 30 October, before holding plenary consultations during which it continued its consideration of the issue, the Security Council at a public meeting heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Lakhdar Brahimi, on the development of the situation in Afghanistan since his previous statement to the Council on 19 September 2002. The deliberations were based on the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2002/1173), which was before the Council.

The Special Representative said that sporadic fighting in the north, the south-east and, to a lesser extent, the west of the country posed threats to security. He stressed that even though the capacity-building programmes for the police and the national army were well under way and were continuing, with Germany as the lead nation, progress was slower for the army. He emphasized the need for the Government and people of Afghanistan to receive the international support they were requesting to provide security while the national police and national army were being trained.

On the question of returning to a constitutional system, the Special Representative announced that a drafting committee to prepare the new constitution had been formed but that the draft constitution would not be submitted to the Loya Jirga until the end of 2003 and elections would be held in mid-2004.

The Special Representative also reported on the meeting of the Implementation Group held in Kabul several days earlier, bringing together the Government, donors, the United Nations, multilateral partners and non-governmental organizations.

During that meeting, the Government of Afghanistan had presented its development plan and the main outlines of its development budget, as well as 12 priority areas.

Iraq/Kuwait

On 2 October, the Security Council held a closed meeting with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM). The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, gave a briefing based on the report of the Secretary-General on UNIKOM for the period from 21 March to 15 September 2002 (S/2002/1039).

The question of extending the mandate of UNIKOM was considered on 3 October during informal consultations of the Security Council. In the statement to the press which he delivered following the consultations, the President of the Security Council said that the members of the Council, approving the Secretary-General's recommendation, had decided to extend the mandate of UNIKOM for six months.

During informal consultations on the same day, the members of the Council heard successive reports by the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), Hans Blix, and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mohamed ElBaradei, on the conclusions of the negotiations held at Vienna on 30 September and 1 October 2002 with the Iraqi authorities concerning practical arrangements prior to the return to Iraq of the United Nations disarmament inspectors.

After the consultations, the President of the Security Council delivered a statement to the press, in which the members of the Council took note of the conclusions drawn by the Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC and the Director General of IAEA from their discussions with the Iraqi authorities.

On 15 October, the Security Council heard the views of the Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC on the latest correspondence from Iraq concerning the discussions that the Iraqi authorities had had with UNMOVIC and IAEA on practical arrangements prior to future disarmament inspections. The President of the Security Council delivered a statement to the press after the consultations, confirming that the Council would hold a public meeting on the Iraqi question on 16 October.

On 16 and 17 October, at the request of South Africa in its capacity as current chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Security Council held public meetings on the situation between Iraq and Kuwait. Fifty-five countries took part in the debate, during which the outlines of the future Security Council resolution on disarmament inspections were established.

On 23 October, the President of the Security Council decided to hold consultations on the situation between Iraq and Kuwait to enable Kuwait to have an exchange of views on the question. Following that decision, the United States of America and the United Kingdom decided to introduce their draft resolution on the disarmament of Iraq. Further consultations on the draft resolution were held on the following days, particularly on 25 and 28 October.

Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 18 October, the Security Council held its monthly meeting of informal consultations on the development of the situation in the Middle East, in particular the diplomatic efforts for peace made by the Quartet and the security and humanitarian situation on the ground.

All delegations urged respect for resolution 1435 (2002) of 24 September 2002, and called for, inter alia, the lifting of the siege of the headquarters of the Palestinian Authority and the cessation of acts of violence and provocation.

The President of the Council made no statement to the press on this matter after the consultations.

Europe

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina and Special Representative of the European Union, Lord Paddy Ashdown, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Coordinator of the United Nations Operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jacques Paul Klein, reported to the Security Council on 8 October on the elections held in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 5 October.

They also informed the Council about the development of the situation on the ground before the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) made way for the European Union Police Mission.

On 23 October, the Security Council held a public meeting on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina a few weeks after the elections of 5 October and shortly before the transition planned on 1 January 2003 between UNMIBH and the European Union Police Mission. The Council had before it a letter dated 18 October 2002 addressed to the President of the Security Council transmitting the report of the High Representative (S/2002/1176).

The High Representative and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General participated in the debates.

Prevlaka, Croatia

On 11 October the Security Council adopted resolution 1437 (2002) extending the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP) until 15 December 2002. The Council had before it the report of the Secretary-General on UNMOP (S/2002/1101).

In the resolution, the Council reiterated its calls upon the parties to comply with the demilitarized regime in the United Nations designated zones, to cooperate fully with the United Nations military observers and to ensure their safety and full and unrestricted freedom of movement.

The Security Council had first held a closed meeting with the troop-contributing countries, on 10 October, in accordance with the relevant provisions of resolution 1353 (2001). On that occasion, it heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia*

On 3 October, the Security Council held informal consultations on the situation in Kosovo, particularly Mitrovica, after hearing a report by the Secretariat on the development of the situation there.

At the end of the consultations, the President of the Council delivered a statement to the press, in which the members of the Council reiterated their support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Michael Steiner, and welcomed his seven-point proposals made to the citizens of Mitrovica on 1 October 2002.

During informal consultations on 10 October, the Council considered the question of the composition of the Security Council mission to Kosovo to be headed by Ambassador Ole Peter Kolby of Norway.

At a formal meeting on 24 October, the Security Council adopted a statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2002/29), in which it welcomed the progress made in preparing the municipal elections on 26 October 2002 in Kosovo, and called upon all eligible voters to ensure wide participation in the voting so as to provide the best opportunity for future progress towards the building of a multi-ethnic and tolerant society.

Thematic issues

Small arms

On 11 October, the Security Council held a public meeting, in two parts, devoted to small arms. The members of the Council had before them the report of the Secretary-General on small arms (S/2002/1053), introduced by the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Jayantha Dhanapala.

Twenty-five representatives of States non-members of the Security Council participated in the debate, following which the President circulated among the members of the Council a draft presidential statement.

On 31 October, the Security Council adopted the statement by the President of the Security Council on small arms (S/PRST/2002/30) in which, inter alia, it encouraged States to ensure effective control over the export, import, transit, stocking and storage of small arms and light weapons, and urged them to establish an end-user certificate system at the national, regional and global levels. The Council encouraged arms-exporting countries to exercise the highest degree of responsibility in small arms and light weapons transactions. It also, for the first time, stressed the importance of taking steps to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons. It therefore called upon States to establish, where applicable, a national register of arms brokers. The Council urged States to impose appropriate penalties for all illicit brokering activities, as well as arms transfers that violated Security Council embargoes, and to take appropriate enforcement action.

* As from 4 February 2003, the name of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was changed to Serbia and Montenegro.

Women and peace and security

On the occasion of the second anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) on 31 October 2000, the Security Council, on 28 and 29 October, held a public debate on the subject of women and peace and security. The debate, which was originally to have been held on 25 October, was delayed to enable members of the Security Council to hold urgent consultations on the disarmament of Iraq. The members of the Council had before them the report of the Secretary-General (S/2002/1154).

The Secretary-General, the President of the Economic and Social Council, and the Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women participated in the debate.

A meeting on the same subject organized on the basis of the Arria formula had been chaired on 23 October by Singapore. During her statement at the public meeting, the representative of Singapore briefed the Security Council on the substance of the discussions and transmitted the information received, while noting that there was no formal mechanism for that purpose.

Introducing his report, the Secretary-General said that while women suffer the impact of conflict disproportionately they are also the key to the solution of conflict. He therefore called for acknowledgement of the contribution of women at all stages of the settlement of conflicts.

Twenty representatives of States non-members of the Security Council participated in the public debate on this question.

In the statement by the President of the Security Council on women and peace and security (S/PRST/2002/32) adopted on 31 October, the Council undertook, inter alia, to integrate gender perspectives into the consideration of questions of international peace and security, particularly the mandates of all peacekeeping missions, post-conflict reconstruction and humanitarian operations. It deplored the continuing occurrence of sexual exploitation, including trafficking, of women and girls in the context of peacekeeping operations and humanitarian activities. The Council requested the Secretary-General to establish a database of gender specialists as well as women's groups and networks in countries and regions in conflict. It encouraged Member States and the Secretary-General to establish regular contacts with local women's groups and networks in order to utilize their knowledge of the impact of armed conflict on women and girls.

Other issues

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

Counter-Terrorism Committee

In accordance with the presidential statement of 15 April 2002 (S/PRST/2002/10), the Counter-Terrorism Committee submitted a report on its work in the year since its establishment in October 2001 pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001.

The Security Council held public meetings on 4 and 8 October to consider the report on the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

In his statement, the Secretary-General paid tribute to the Committee and its Chairman for their efforts to ensure that all States implement an effective strategy to combat terrorism. He noted that, thanks to its work, the Committee had become an important catalyst in the search for an international consensus against terrorism and urged compliance with the 12 international conventions against terrorism.

In his statement, the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, Sir Jeremy Greenstock, noted that the Committee was not a tribunal and that cooperation had been the first hallmark of its modus operandi. While resolution 1373 (2001) was mandatory for all Member States, it had to be implemented willingly by Governments to make a difference. While the Committee did not expect any State to report that it had fully implemented resolution 1373 (2001), it did expect every State to strengthen its capacity against terrorism. He noted that, to date, 173 States had submitted their reports, while 16 others had yet to file a report. Of the latter group, seven had not even bothered to contact the Committee.

All the delegations congratulated the Committee for its work, its outstanding contribution to the fight against terrorism and achievements, and paid tribute to its Chairman. Twenty-nine representatives of States non-members of the Security Council together with the Permanent Observers for the African Union and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to the United Nations participated in the debate.

Following the debate, the Security Council adopted a statement by the President (S/PRST/2002/26), in which it confirmed the continuation of the current arrangements for the Bureau of the Committee for a further six months. The Council invited the Committee to pursue its agenda as set out in the work programme for the Committee's fifth 90-day period (S/2002/1075), focusing on ensuring that all States had legislation in place covering all aspects of resolution 1373 (2001) and a process in hand for ratifying as soon as possible the 12 international protocols and conventions relating to terrorism.

Terrorist bomb attacks of 12 October 2002 in Bali, Indonesia

On 14 October, the Security Council, in accordance with the understanding reached in prior consultations on the bomb attacks in Bali, Indonesia, on 12 October 2002, unanimously adopted at a public meeting, under the item entitled "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts", resolution 1438 (2002) condemning those attacks in the strongest terms. By that resolution, the Security Council urged all States, in accordance with their obligations under resolution 1373 (2001), to work together urgently and to cooperate with and provide support and assistance, as appropriate, to the Indonesian authorities in their efforts to find and bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of those terrorist attacks.

Taking of hostages in Moscow

The Security Council, at a public meeting held on 24 October in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations on the taking of hostages the previous day in Moscow, unanimously adopted, under the item entitled "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts", resolution 1440 (2002) condemning that heinous act in the strongest terms. While demanding the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages of the terrorist act, the Security Council urged all States, in accordance with their obligations under resolution 1373 (2001),

to cooperate with the Russian authorities in their efforts to find and bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of the terrorist attack.

Nominations for permanent judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1994

In accordance with the understanding reached in prior consultations, the Security Council decided at a formal meeting on 11 October to postpone until 15 November 2002 the deadline for the submission of nominations for permanent judges of the International Tribunal for Rwanda, owing to an insufficient number of nominations. The members of the Council had before them a letter from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council (S/2002/1106) and a draft letter that the President of the Security Council proposed to address to the Secretary-General informing him of the Council's decision to postpone the deadline for the submission of nominations for permanent judges of the Tribunal.

Elections to the International Court of Justice

On 21 October, the Security Council and the General Assembly simultaneously proceeded to elect, by secret ballot, in accordance with article 13 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, five judges to the International Court of Justice for a term of nine years, beginning on 6 February 2003. The General Assembly and the Security Council both elected the following persons: Shi Jiuyong (China), Abdul G. Koroma (Sierra Leone), Hisashi Owada (Japan), Bruno Simma (Germany) and Peter Tomka (Slovakia).

Annual report of the Security Council

On 24 October, the Security Council held informal consultations of the whole on the consideration of its annual report by the General Assembly, on 14 and 15 October.

On 14 October, the President of the Security Council introduced the report of the Security Council (A/57/2) to the General Assembly prior to the latter's consideration of the item. He reviewed the activities of the Council during the period under consideration, noting that the Council had successfully tested its new mechanism for cooperation with troop-contributing countries. He noted that the report of the Security Council had been substantially reduced, since it contained 300 pages less than the previous year's report, yielding savings of $300,000. The Security Council had held 264 formal meetings, 91 meetings more than in the previous year. It had adopted 75 resolutions, 23 more than the previous year, and 47 presidential statements, 12 more than in the previous year.

In their statements to the General Assembly, Member States welcomed the more rational and analytical new format of the annual report of the Security Council. They noted that the Council's methods of work had improved somewhat, especially in terms of transparency. There was a substantial increase in the number of public meetings in which more States non-members of the Security Council participated.

Member States used the debate on the report of the Security Council to call for the reform of the Council, including the right of veto and its methods of work. They called for the expansion of the membership of the Council to enable it to regain its legitimacy and be more representative of and better reflect the current geopolitical situation in the world. In that regard, they pleaded for an increase in the number of permanent and non-permanent seats.

During the consultations held on 24 October, members of the Security Council took note of the comments of the General Assembly and seized the opportunity to advance the discussions on improving the Council's efficiency and work, streamlining its methods of work and improving its relations with other organs and organizations of the United Nations system. They noted that the work of the Security Council had become more complex over the years. While the notable increase in the number of public meetings had made the Council's work more transparent, much still remained to be done. In their view, the missions of the Security Council in areas of conflict were vital, as was the establishment, where necessary, of ad hoc committees and working groups.

International Court of Justice

On 29 October, the Security Council, in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior informal consultations, heard, at a private meeting held in the usual format, a briefing by Judge Gilbert Guillaume, President of the International Court of Justice, on the activities of the Court and the status of cases before it. At the end of the meeting, in accordance with rule 55 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, a communiqué was issued in lieu of a verbatim record.

International Tribunals for Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia

On 29 October, in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the Security Council heard, at a private meeting in the usual format, briefings on the activities and status of cases before the Tribunals by Judge Claude Jorda, President of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991; and Judge Navanethem Pillay, President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994. The Prosecutor of the two Tribunals, Carla Del Ponte, also made a statement.

At the end of that meeting, in accordance with rule 55 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, a communiqué was issued in lieu of a verbatim record.